

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04635 020536Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 HEW-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
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PASS OES/PA, AID, DHEW/OIH, NIH, FIC, HSA, HRA, FDA, ONR, NIMH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY, SPOP, IN
SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

1. MR. RAJ NARAIN THE FIRERY SOCIALIST WHO OVERWHELMINGLY UN-
SEATED MRS. INDIRA GANDHI FROM HER SEAT IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF
RAI BARELI, UTTAR PRADESH, HAS BEEN ASKED TO JOIN THE CABINET AND
ACCEPT THE PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
PLANNING. RAJ NARAIN HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDIAN FREEDOM
MOVEMENT SINCE CHILDHOOD AND WAYKA LEADING MEMBER OF THE INDIAN
SOCIALIST MOVEMENT THROUGH THE BRITISH RULE UNTIL RECENTLY. HE
HAS ADMITTED TO BEING ARRESTED 58 TIMES IN CONNECTION WITH
AGITATIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SOCIAL DISPARITIES IN THE COUNTRY AND
CLAIMS HE HAS SPENT 15 YEARS IN JAIL.

RAJ NARAIN HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM BWSARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY AND
MOST RECENTLY WAS ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN 1974.
HE IS A DEVOTEE OF THE HINDU RELIGION AND IS CONTINUOUSLY QUOTING
THE ANCIENT HINDU VEDAS, UPANISHADS. RAMYANA, MAHABHARTA AND
GITA. HE HAS ALSO CLAIMED NEVER TO WRITE IN ENGLISH.

DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HE MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS ON FAMILY
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PLANNING INDICATING HE APPROVED OF IT AS SUCH AND HE SAID "THIS
WAS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN FORCED STERILIZATION AS IMPOSED BY THE
(INDIRA) GANDHI POLICY". HE REMARKED TO HIS AUDIENCES ON MANY
OCCASSIONS THAT LORDMUAMA AND HIS BROTHERS HAD ONLY TWO SONS EACH,
WHILE LORD KRISHNA HAD ONLY ONE SON AND THEY DID NOT HAVE TO BE
STERILIZED. RAJ NARAIN SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW THE JANATA PARTY
MANIFESTO ON POPULATION WHICH STATES "THAT THE PARTY FULLY ACCEPTS

THE VITAL NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING AS A MEANS OF INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL BEING. BUT IT DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT A PROGRAM OF THIS KIND SHOULD BE TARNISHED OR BRUTALIZED BY THE USE OF FORCE OR COMPULSION OF ANY KIND. THE PARTY SEES FAMILY PLANNING AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A LARGE POPULATION POLICY PACKAGE, COMPREHENDING EDUCATION, HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD CARE, FAMILY WELFARE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS, NUTRITION, EMPLOYMENT AND RAISING LIVING STANDARDS. THE PARTY FEELS THAT TO ISOLATE FAMILY PLANNING WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE".

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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